

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-02 OES-03 EB-07 AID-05 AGR-05 TAR-01

COME-00 /034 W
----- 006132

R 020506Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO DEPT OF TREASURY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3533

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PASS TREASURY FOR OSAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: USSAEC, EAID, US, SA
SUBJECT: FDA CUSTOMS TRAINING FOR SAUDI CHEMISTS

REFS (A) 75 OSAA 221, (B) OSAA 012

1. WITH REGARD REFTEL (A), SPECIFIC DETAILS PROMISED
STILL NOT RECEIVED.

2. ABDALLA AL JASIR IS ON SEPARATE TRAINING MISSION AND
MUST BE CANCELLED OUT OF THIS PROGRAM.

3. INITIAL RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS REF (B) AS FOLLOWS:

(3)(A)-ALL PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES ARE CHEMISTS
ENGAGED IN CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF FOODS AND COSMETICS.
AHMED YUSUF QASEM IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE QUALITY CONTROL
LABORATORY IN DAMMAM.

(3)(B)-JOB DESCRIPTION ANSWERED ABOVE. AL-AHMADI
AHAS NO ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES; NAZIR HAS APPROXIMATELY
20 PERCENT ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES; BOTH SABBAK AND RIDHWI
HAVE APPROXIMATELY 10 PERCENT ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES, AND
QASEM HAS 50 PERCENT ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES.

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(3)(C)-AL AHMADI, NAZIR, SABBAK AND QASEM AL HAVE B. SC., RIDHWI HAS M. SC. DEGREE. FURTHER DETAILS NOT YET AVAILABLE; WILL FORWARD WHEN WE HAVE THEM.

(3)(D)-TOTAL PREVIOUS TRAINING COURSES NOT YET KNOWN; QASEM HAS HAD SEPARATE TRAINING IN HOLLAND (6 MONTHS), AND IRAN (3 MONTHS).

(3)(E)-AREAS OF SPECIFIC TRAINING ARE AS FOLLOWS:
MICROBIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD AND POTABLE WATER; IN-

STRUMENTAL METHODS OF FAT ANALYSIS; SOAPS, DETERGENTS, COSMETICS; FOOD COLORS, FOOD ADDITIVES, SPICES AND CONDIMENTS; DAIRY PRODUCTS, POWDERED MILK AND CONDENSED MILK; FOOD PACKAGES (ATOM ABSORPTION TECHNIQUES).

(3)(F)-BELIEVE ALL CANDIDATES HAVE GOOD ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE, HOWEVER, THIS NOT YET COMPLETELY DETERMINED.

4. PER PARAGRAPH TWO (2) ABOVE, AL-JASIR NOT AVAILABLE FOR TESTING.

5. (5)(A)-LIST OF DUTIABLE ITEMS TOGETHER WITH TARIFF SCHEDULE NOT AVAILABLE. ALL ITEMS ENTERING SAUDI ARABIA HAVE SAME TARIFF (LOW). TYPES OF GOODS CONSIDERED BY THE LABORATORIES, EXPECIALLY FOR PURPOSE OF THESE STUDENTS, ARE ALL TYPES OF CANNED, PROCESSED AND PACKAGED FOOD. AT LEAST 90 PERCENT OF FOOD COMMODITIES ARE IMPORTED INTO SAUDI ARABIA.

(5)(B)-LIST OF PROHIBITED ITEMS ALSO DOES NOT EXIST. ONLY PROHIBITED ITEMS WE INTERESTED IN ARE PORK PRODUCTS AND ALCHOL. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF STANDARDS USED IN THEIR IDENTIFICATION IS VERY OUT-DATED (10 YEARS OLD); HOWEVER, ONE WILL BE POUCHEDE. POINT IS THAT SPECIFIC STANDARDS OR SPECIFICATIONS CANNOT BE WRITTEN, SINCE WRITTEN PROHIBITION IS ABSOLUTE, E.G., NO ALCOHOL, NO

PORK PRODUCTS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, SOME, ESPECIALLY AL-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COHOL, IS ALLOWED IN CERTAIN FORMS SUCH AS PERFUMES, MINISCULE AMOUNTS OF VINEGAR, ETC. HOWEVER, THIS CANNOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED ON PAPER. STUDENTS WILL TELL YOU ABOUT IT WHEN THEY GET THERE.

(5)(C)-GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TECHNIQUES USED FOR FOOD QUALITY CONTROL. SAUDI ARABIA USES THEIR OWN SPECIFICATIONS IN SOME INSTANCES (THE 10 YEAR OLD DOCUMENT WHICH WILL

BE POUCHED), BUT IN MOST INSTANCES USES VARIOUS APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS SUCH AS DOCES, ALIMENTARIOUS, ISO RECOMMENDATIONS, AND OTHER AMERICAN, BRITISH, AND EUROPEAN STANDARDS AS APPLICABLE. IN GENERAL THE PRODUCTS SHOULD COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS OF THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN WHERE THE STANDARDS DO NOT CONTRADICT SAUDI GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES USED ARE CHEMICAL, PHYSICAL, MICROBIOLOGICAL AND INSTRUMENTAL. REFERENCES ARE MADE TO THE AOAC, AOC, AND BSS, ETC.'

(5)(D)-THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS, WHICH IS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DOES NOT HAVE QUALITY CONTROL OR TECHNICAL LABORATORIES; THEREFORE, THIS IS DONE FOR THEM BY THE QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORIES UNDER THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. ORGANIZATION IS THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE. UNDER HIM ARE THREE QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORIES. EACH LAB DOES THE FULL RANGE OF ANALYSIS. THEY ARE LOCATED IN THE THREE CITIES OF JIDDA, RIYADH AND DAMMAM.

6. AS STATED PARA 3.(3)(F) ABOVE, AND SAUDCRFOREIGN OFFICE
NOTE #86/36/1/19919/2 (10/15/75) ALL CANDIDATES ARE, WE
BELIEVE, COMPETENT IN ENGLISH.

7. ADDITIONAL INFO WILL BE FORTHCOMING ASAP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL TRAINING, CHEMISTRY, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA00724
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760038-0621
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760292/aaaaddaa.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 OCT 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FDA CUSTOMS TRAINING FOR SAUDI CHEMISTS
TAGS: EAID, US, SA, USSAEC, FDA
To: TRSY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006